

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: S. Okamoto et al. : Art Unit:
Serial No.: To Be Assigned : Examiner:
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (R&P) submitted herewith. A copy of each of the listed references is also enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

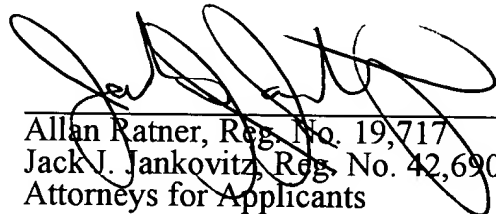
The enclosed references are not in the English language, but were cited by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. A copy of this Japanese language search report, indicating the degree of relevance determined by the foreign patent office is submitted herewith. Also enclosed is

an English translation of Form PCT/ISA/210 to explain the special category definitions of the Japanese language search report.

This information disclosure statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

No fee or certification is required. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

Respectfully submitted,



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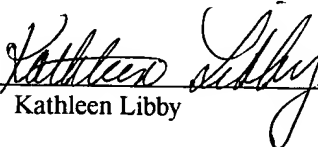
Encls.: PTO Form 1449,
Copy of (2) References,
Japanese Language Search Report, and
English Translation of PCT/ISA/210
Dated: June 6, 2000

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I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.



Kathleen Libby